

## **Guaranteed Living Income Toronto Newsbreeze October 30, 2016**

There are not so many events this week. The next meet up of GLI activists is the HSAG group 955 Queens street East, Riverview Health Centre. That is on Thursday, November 3rd, 1:30 to 3:30.

Something is going to happen in Hamilton on November 23, as the Ontario Social Planning Council meets to discuss the provincial Pilot. It would be worth while to get a few GLI people out there.

I haven't got any further information yet about this event in Peterborough on the 19th. Somebody should know something. Hm!

However, I have been busy this week adding to my own [www.livinggrant.ch](http://www.livinggrant.ch) web site.

I have snagged the Vimeos from the 2016 Winnipeg conference so they do not disappear. Find them at <http://www.livinggrant.ch/vimeos2016/winnipeg2016.html>

I now have an archive for old Newsbreezes, here. <http://www.livinggrant.ch/oldbreezes/top.html>

I also created a page specifically for assembling arguments against a "pilot", or at least getting too excited about one. The "Pilotless page" is at <http://www.livinggrant.ch/pilotless.html>

I have been doing some blogging. The latest post arises from my attempts to reply to a discussion in another forum about whether impoverished people should work and hope for a GLI. A generationally impoverished lady tore into some condescending "anti-poverty" people. Read all about it at; <http://blog.livinggrant.ch/2016/10/31/guaranteed-living-income-and-the-battle-for-the-future/>

I expressed my own view about the nature of the fight over BI/GLI

This week I am giving a lot of space to one of the most effective BI/GLI activists in Toronto. She wrote me a message which is so smart and relevant to the problems we are facing, that I think it is worth reproducing with her permission.

Robyn also produces the "Sayout" newsletter, which some of you may want to subscribe to or even write for. [peteronwrite@hotmail.com](mailto:peteronwrite@hotmail.com)

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**A directory of BI organizations in Canada**

For General Information; here is where the local organizations supporting income guarantees are. Lots in Ontario. Only one on the whole Prairies; in Winnipeg. A provincial umbrella organization seems like a good idea, as long as it does not get taken in by the "pilot" nonsense.

[http://www.basicincomecanada.org/local\\_networks?utm\\_campaign=fall\\_2016\\_ask&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=bicn](http://www.basicincomecanada.org/local_networks?utm_campaign=fall_2016_ask&utm_medium=email&utm_source=bicn)

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## **Some valuable Input from Robyn**

Hi Tim,

Thank you for your thoughtful and considerate response to my lengthy email.

I believe the messaging overall with BI or GLI is slow, but somewhat confusing for most people. The politicians, of course, are not making things easier. I think Kathleen Wynne's concept is one of a poverty relief programme which would save money on social benefit programmes (including eliminating employment for many professionals involved with 'administering' poverty activities). The fundamental question is one of how to sharpen up the education process for the largest number of people. That demands a strategic approach. In particular, the points about "universality" and an income above the poverty line are vital.

Wynne has succeeded in blocking much good discussion about GLI or BI with her promises about a basic income programme. At the moment, these promises amount to little or nothing. After the pilots, we may or may not see the launch of something worthwhile -- but I doubt it. From a public education perspective, however, many people may believe that the whole question of a basic income is now well in hand.

Back around 2009, we heard a lot about a major poverty reduction initiative in Ontario as Beth Matthews led the supposed campaign finally to do something about it. That resulted in lots of enthusiasm and many public consultation sessions. But as far as I can see, the whole campaign amounted to precious little. I don't think social assistance rates or disability rates have risen significantly in the past seven years.

Beth Matthews is an important cabinet minister in the Wynne government, but I don't hear her speaking out much about poverty these days. All of this makes me wonder about the value of the present strategy related to basic income. Is it really much ado about too little?

A provincial election is due when, in 2018? The Wynne government and the McGuinty government previously, have screwed up enough things that a win by the Progressive

Conservatives is a real possibility. That would likely kill any further work on a basic income programme, pilot or no.

We need a credible organization that's reasonably well positioned to become a continuing champion for the guaranteed living income concept. This could be a political party, such as the NDP or a significant religious group such as the Anglican Diocese of Toronto. This diocese has had an active social justice component for some years now.

Possibly Kairos could be useful in this regard. They may have recovered (mostly) from the serious blow they suffered from Harper a few years ago.

Some time ago I was told by John Ryerson that a poverty group met regularly at the Ralph Thornton Centre. I tried to make it to one of their supposed meetings, but couldn't find hide nor hair of them at the allotted time and date. If there is such a group, they might be helpful as a continuing vehicle for education and support. I mentioned them to Susy at one point, but she didn't seem to know anything about them. That experience, by the way, highlights again the need for posters to guide people properly, whatever the meeting.

(I suspect some saboteurs may have been loose for the session we had on October 6. Certainly, for all the poster work we had done, I didn't see any posters beforehand, not even at SRCHC.)

I get the impression that small groups may be meeting all over the place at this point without clear connections to others or the public at large. Indeed, some such groups may be hostile to other such groups.

I don't think you should be exhausting yourself in running after a lot of small groups. If meetings can be organized from time to time (not just for guaranteed income) that could be helpful.

Cheers,

Robyn

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## **Advisor Segal**

Former senator, the Honourable Hugh Segal (now Master of Massey College) will be the top adviser to the government of Ontario on the design and implementation of a pilot programme (or two) in basic income within the province. He is to make his recommendations in March of 2017.

At the moment the hope is that one or two pilot programmes might start in 2018. The 'pilot' stage would run for perhaps three years. On this schedule it's possible that Ontario might have a basic income programme by 2021. Then again, it might not. A programme will begin only if there is no provincial deficit.

A provincial election due in the next couple of years could negate everything.

( Reprinted from Sayout Newsletter, by Robyn Peterson. )

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## **Sayout**

Sayout gives voice to those concerned about where we are in today's world and where we're headed. Here we can talk about issues affecting us right now—in Canada and around the world.

Agree or disagree, but think. What is really happening, and what do we need to do? Ask questions of those in power, demand action where it's needed, and don't be misled by saccharine promises or golden phrases meant to soothe but nothing more.

This newsletter is free in its e- version form.

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